3. SURVEILLANCE

This chapter outlines the key steps in setting up and running a surveillance system in an emergency.

3.1 General principles

Surveillance is the ongoing systematic collection, analysis and interpretation of data in order to plan, implement and evaluate public health interventions.

A surveillance system should be simple, flexible, acceptable and situation-specific. It should be established at the beginning of public health activities set up in response to an emergency.

Public health surveillance classically comprises six core activities (detection, registration, confirmation, reporting, analysis and feedback) that are made possible through four support activities (communication, training, supervision and resource provision).

![Conceptual framework of public health surveillance and action](image)